Provisional

19 August 2013

Original: English

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2013
General segment

Provisional summary record of the 47th meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 25 July 2013, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Sajdik (Vice-President) ..... (Austria)

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In the absence of Mr. Osorio (Colombia), Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(m) Transport of dangerous goods (E/2013/51)

The President invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals", contained in chapter I of the report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (E/2013/51).

The draft resolution was adopted.

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Social development (A/68/61-E/2013/3, E/2013/26)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice (E/2012/30/Add.1, E/2013/30 and E/2013/80)

(d) Narcotic drugs (E/2012/28/Add.1, E/2013/28, E/INCB/2012/1)

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2013/10, E/2013/49, E/2013/76, E/2013/83, E/2013/85, E/2013/86, E/2013/89, E/2013/L.25)

(f) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

(g) Human rights (A/68/55, E/2013/22 and E/2013/82)

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2013/43)

Ms. Bas (Director for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (A/68/61-E/2013/3), said that many Governments had been developing social protection programmes and that parental leave, flexible working arrangements and quality childcare were increasingly being seen as investments in productivity, employee retention and human capital. Family policies should be designed to empower families rather than to substitute for their functions. The Secretary-General recommended in the report that better cooperation should be established between all stakeholders to allow for more effective family policies and wider sharing of good practices in the lead-up to the anniversary.

Ms. Feroukhi (Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), introducing the Board's report on the major activities of the Institute (E/2013/80), said that the Institute's programme of work revolved around six thematic areas: the threat of organized crime to security and development; criminal justice systems and the protection of vulnerable groups; international criminal law and practice; best practices, capacity-building and better access to services; security governance and terrorism issues; and training and higher education. The Institute had designed a research programme on counterfeiting, conducted a survey in 28 European countries on violence

against women, and piloted a training programme in Africa on ethics in clinical drug trials. It advised countries on security at major events and supported States engaged in activities to reduce radicalization and improve rehabilitation services for convicted terrorists. The Institute had implemented the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence Initiative, designed postgraduate courses on crime prevention and criminal justice and forged partnerships with other international and civil society organizations, and the private sector. It had held an international forum on the subject of urban security, taken steps to address the problem of environmental crime and studied the role of organized crime in the gemstone supply chain.

Mr. Yans (United Nations International Narcotics Control Board), introducing the Board's 2012 annual report (E/INCB/2012/1), called for a renewed commitment to sharing responsibility for drug control. Drug control measures should be incorporated into socioeconomic development policies and a greater focus placed on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug users. All States should accede to the United Nations conventions on narcotic drugs. While the Board welcomed the steps taken by the Afghan Government to update its drug control policies, it remained concerned about the scant progress made in curbing opium poppy cultivation and about the expansion in production of cannabis resin.

He said that because of significant regional disparities in the availability of pharmaceuticals, many people suffered unnecessary pain. The abuse of prescription drugs was a growing concern in many countries and the Board advocated that better training and public awareness initiatives should be undertaken to help address that issue. The Board was developing a system to help States to control the distribution of drugs. It was exploring possible responses to the challenge of new psychoactive substances, but also encouraged Governments to monitor and share information about their use and to include measures to deal with them in their prevention and treatment programmes. More needed to be done to tackle the problem of the diversion of precursor chemicals away from domestic trade and towards unlawful drug manufacturing.

Ms. Lim (Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)), said that, in 2012, the Office and its partners had responded to emergencies in 17 countries, in addition to other protracted crises. The unprecedented number of crises had considerably stretched the resources and capacities of all humanitarian actors, amplifying the need for greater coordination of their efforts. In the Syrian situation, for example, the Office had appointed a regional refugee coordinator to cooperate with inter-agency coordination mechanisms in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey and had liaised with over 100 partner organizations on the Regional Refugee Response Plan. The Office and the World Food Programme had conducted a joint evaluation of the impact of food aid in protracted refugee situations and had carried out joint assessment missions in more than 10 countries.

The Office had been actively involved in ongoing reform of the humanitarian system through the Transformative Agenda that had been adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. It had boosted its leadership, coordination and information management functions and established a steering committee to reorient its policies and practices. It was working more intensively with development actors and the private sector to increase self-reliance among persons of concern and to include displaced persons in development initiatives. It had institutionalized the practices of consulting refugees and stateless persons in matters that concerned them and viewed NGOs as key partners in protection activities. An evaluation of the Office's relations with NGOs had been launched and a number of recommendations had been made on ways to strengthen collaboration in the field and to promote a culture of transparency and shared responsibility.

Ms. Kran (Director, Research and Right to Development Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), introducing the report of the High

Commissioner on the impact of austerity measures on economic, social and cultural rights (E/2013/82), said that austerity measures had diminished the ability of individuals in many countries to exercise their human rights. They had also failed to promote economic recovery. Policy responses to economic crises should be rights-based and include mechanisms that provided for social investment, job training and job creation as well as social security protection. In the report, the High Commissioner outlined the criteria that States should apply when considering adopting austerity measures. States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights must furthermore demonstrate that austerity measures would actually protect the rights covered in the Covenant and that all other alternatives had been exhausted.

General discussion

Ms. Čiapienė (Observer for Lithuania), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, said that the challenges of providing full and productive employment, decent work and social protection should have a central place in the post-2015 development agenda. Those challenges could not be overcome without empowering people to become agents of their own change. An empowered society could make a key contribution to sustainable growth and development. Inclusive social protection policies and programmes constituted a good investment in sustainable development. Capacity-building must be made a priority so that beneficiaries could be integrated into productive economic activity and employment.

Ageing was high on the European Union's agenda, and the European Union was committed to sharing good practices on cooperation between generations. It was tackling youth unemployment as a matter of priority and, fulfilment of its commitments under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, had adopted the European Disability Strategy 2010–2020. In its view, the rights of persons with disabilities should be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

Ms. Robl (United States of America) said that the common drug control framework established by the international community was the product of years of careful consideration and field-based experience. Those who advocated change to global drug policies should offer their own credible evidence or scientific research. The international community must continue to focus on drug threats that represented a danger to the public. While the markets for heroin and cocaine were declining, synthetic drug use was on the rise. Synthetic drug manufacturers managed to put new drugs on the market faster than they could be scheduled for control and were able to skirt existing drug laws by altering the drugs' chemical composition. In 2012, the United States had passed legislation to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to deal with new psychoactive substances. International action was needed to address the serious threat posed by the spread of such substances.

She commended UNHCR on dealing with concurrent humanitarian emergencies in a context of rising insecurity. She recalled the importance of cooperation in ensuring a smooth transition from relief to sustainable development and said that the Transitional Solutions Initiative adopted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNHCR and the World Bank was an important instrument in that regard.

She recalled that the report on the twelfth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues (E/2013/43-E/C.19/2013/25) had been made available only a few days previously, and said that action on the decisions and recommendations set forth therein should be deferred. The Council's review of the report was the only opportunity to discuss the Forum's recommendations and more time was needed to do that. She looked

forward to informal consultations on the report and on the proposed decisions that it contained.

Mr. Lashev (Bulgaria) said that his Government appreciated the open and constructive dialogue that it had had with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights during the consideration of his country's combined periodic reports. It nevertheless regretted that its detailed written replies to questions raised during the meetings had not been taken into account in the Committee's concluding observations. He encouraged the Committee to review its working methods in the light of that experience.

Ms. Ji-yae Huh (Republic of Korea) said that while the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs played a leading role in the fight against drugs and crime, many problems remained to be addressed. Global coordination, especially information sharing among law enforcement agencies, was one crucial way of meeting challenges in that area. In April 2013, her country's criminal code had been amended and a provision included that dealt specifically with human trafficking. Her Government fully supported the valuable work of UNHCR, but considered that greater efforts must be made to provide asylum seekers with protection under international law and to apply the principle of non-refoulement.

Mr. Thongphakdi (Observer for Thailand) said that Thailand supported the establishment of international criminal justice standards and, in particular, the draft resolutions that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had adopted at its twenty-second session on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and on action against femicide (E/2013/30, chap. I, section A). The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice were important ingredients of sustainable development and must be included in national and global development agendas.

Ms. Rotheiser-Scott (Austria) said that her delegation also supported the draft resolution on the elimination of violence against children put forward by the Commission and that on the implementation of international conventions and protocols related to counterterrorism. She recalled that the International Anti-Corruption Academy made a valuable contribution to education, training, and research on anti-corruption measures and related networks and cooperation mechanisms.

Mr. Toro Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that 18 years after the World Summit for Social Development, the three key objectives of poverty eradication, social inclusion and full and productive employment remained elusive. While the global crisis had exacerbated poverty and led to spending cuts in health and education in many parts of the world, Latin America had advanced its regional development agenda through solidarity and cooperation. Her country's economic and social policies were designed to promote social development, economic empowerment and inclusion. Increased spending on education, health and nutrition had led to a significant reduction in poverty. In addition, the State had strengthened labour rights and enhanced social security provision at a time when many countries were curtailing those rights.

Mr. Shpakovsky (Belarus) said that combating trafficking in persons must be a key part of international efforts to deal with transnational organized crime and the value of partnerships between international organizations, Governments and NGOs in that endeavour must be emphasized. In May 2013, Belarus had hosted a seminar that the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking had organized for law enforcement agencies from various countries.

Thanks to its consistent commitment to human rights, especially the rights of vulnerable groups, Belarus had experienced steady progress in terms of social and economic development. He condemned efforts by certain countries to subject States to

political and economic coercion, including through United Nations structures, and said that the United Nations should establish a special, independent mechanism to address the question of unilateral coercive measures.

Ms. Sigaqa (South Africa) said that organized crime was becoming increasingly complex and sophisticated, one example being "rhino poaching", which had had a detrimental effect on the South African rhino population. Illicit trafficking in precious metals and cybercrime were additional challenges that needed to be addressed, and her Government had supported the draft resolutions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the two issues. The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 must remain a priority and drug and crime-related issues must be taken up in policies, dialogues, programmes and projects focusing on sustainable development.

Mr. Wegener (Denmark) said that, while certain States might require additional time to study the report on the twelfth session the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2013/43), the possible deferral of its adoption could impede the work of the Forum, in particular the preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014. His delegation supported the draft decisions and recommendations contained in the report and strongly encouraged the presidency of the Council to work towards its adoption without further delay.

Mr. Awal (Indonesia) said that Indonesia was committed to the mandate of the Permanent Forum. The Forum should work responsibly and build trust and confidence among members, indigenous communities and Member States. The report before the Council contained lengthy and important recommendations and had been made available too late for in-depth consideration. Careful reflection and debate would be needed, and his delegation supported the proposal to defer action on the report.

Mr. Rakovski (Russian Federation) said that his Government remained committed to honouring its social commitments towards its citizens by, for example, increasing real wages, pensions and welfare coverage. Elderly care and care for persons with disabilities were other key priorities. His country's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had provided it with the impetus needed to build an "accessible environment". Its national youth policy focused on access to employment, international commitments in the area of child rights were met through the National Children's Strategy for 2012–2017. His Government recognized that UNHCR played a pivotal role in crisis management and had allocated US$ 10 million for UNHCR operations in response to the crisis.

His delegation also supported deferral of Syrian action on the report on the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum, pending further consideration of its recommendations.

Ms. Navarro Llanos (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that her country was working to raise awareness of the traditional and medicinal uses of the coca leaf. It had again acceded to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs in 2013, with a reservation stating that the cultivation, trade and possession of the coca leaf for licit purposes, including chewing, was permitted in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Attempts to repress the narcotics trade had hitherto failed, and the Government had devised a novel approach to the problem. Coca leaf cultivation had been voluntarily reduced under agreements between farmers and the Government and largely nationalized. The focus of repressive action had been shifted from producers to criminal organizations. The result had been a reduction both in drug-trafficking and in human rights violations. The International Narcotics Control Board and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had confirmed that the country had significantly curtailed illegal coca leaf cultivation.

Her Government was greatly concerned about proposals to defer consideration of the report on the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The report

contained a draft decision on changing the name of the Forum to the Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The matter had already been discussed at length and action should be taken on the decision by no later than October 2013. The Council should guard against possible political manipulation of discussions regarding the rights of indigenous peoples.

Ms. Villatoro (El Salvador) said that her country's anti-drugs strategy for 2011–2015 provided a framework for achieving progress in the areas of prevention, capacity-building and institutional cooperation to combat drugs. El Salvador had sponsored several resolutions that had been adopted by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs on subjects including: the identification and notification of new narcotic substances; the achievement of targets regarding control of HIV/AIDS among intravenous drug-users; the principle of shared responsibility in combating drug abuse; and measures to combat femicide and violence against children.

Ms. Chavolla (Mexico) said that the draft decisions contained in the report on the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should be adopted as soon as possible.

Mr. Johnsson (Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)) said that parliamentarians needed to be better informed about the work of the Human Rights Council and more involved in the preparation of reports for its universal periodic review. IPU organized workshops on the review and would be providing parliaments with assistance so that they could contribute to the preparation of their countries' reports. Meetings for that purpose would take place in Romania and Ecuador by early 2014. A resolution should be adopted in recognition of the role of parliaments in protecting and promoting human rights. IPU had suggested that the Human Rights Council could include a parliamentary perspective on specific human rights issues. IPU reports on such issues would provide the Council with valuable insights into the application of human rights standards.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Draft decision: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2013/L.25)

Mr. Popov (Belarus), introducing the draft decision, said that Afghanistan, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Peru, Senegal and Slovakia had requested seats on the Executive Committee, which should be expanded to accommodate them.

Mr. Omar (Observer for Afghanistan) said that, with one of the largest refugee populations in the world, Afghanistan well understood the need for facilitating the safe return home of refugees. The Government was working tirelessly to improve the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in the country and cooperated fully with the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the search for solutions.

The President said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

The draft decision was adopted.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-first session (E/2013/26-E/CN.5/2013/15)

The President drew attention to the draft resolutions and decisions contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-first session.

Section A

Draft resolution I entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development"

Draft resolution II entitled "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family"

Draft resolution III entitled "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda: towards 2015 and beyond"

Draft resolution IV entitled "Second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002"

Draft resolutions I, II, III and IV were adopted.

Section B

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session"

The draft decision was adopted.

Section C

Decision 51/101 entitled "Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development"

The decision was adopted.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-first session (E/2012/30/Add.1-E/CN.15/2012/24/Add.1)

The President invited the Council to take action on the draft decision contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-first session.

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-first session"

The draft decision was adopted.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-second session (E/2013/30-E/CN.15/2013/27)

The President invited the Council to take action on the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-second session.

Section A

Draft resolution I entitled "Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice"

Draft resolution II entitled "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking"

Draft resolution III entitled "Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counterterrorism"

Draft resolution IV entitled "The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015"

Draft resolution V entitled "Model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice"

Draft resolution VI entitled "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners"

Draft resolution VII entitled "Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls"

Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII were adopted.

Section B

Draft resolution I entitled "Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development"

Draft resolution II entitled "Combating transnational organized crime and its possible links to illicit trafficking in precious metals"

Draft resolution III entitled "International cooperation in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of economic fraud and identity-related crimes"

Draft resolution IV entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora"

Draft resolution V entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons"

Draft resolutions I, II, III IV and V were adopted.

Section C

Draft decision I entitled "Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime"

Draft decision II entitled "Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-second session and provisional agenda for its twenty-third session"

Draft decisions I and II were adopted.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fifth session (E/2012/28/Add.1-E/CN.7/2012/18/Add.1)

The President drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fifth session.

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fifth session"

Mr. Narang (India) said that his delegation wished to reiterate his Government's request to the International Narcotics Control Bureau that it should furnish details of the evidence that new psychoactive substances were being produced in his country. Alternative development should be an integral part of broader drugs control policies. The Government welcomed recognition by the international community of the fact that the situation of a country or an area in which illicit crops were grown must be taken into account when implementing drugs control measures.

The draft decision was adopted.

The President drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-sixth session.

Section A

Draft resolution entitled "United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development"

The draft resolution was adopted.

Section B

Draft decision I entitled "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-sixth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-seventh session"

Draft decision I was adopted.

Draft decision II entitled "Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime"

The President said that, because the text of the draft decision was identical to that of draft decision I in chapter I, section C, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2013/30), which had already been adopted, the Council would not take action on draft decision II.

Draft decision III entitled "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board"

Draft decision III was adopted.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eleventh session (E/2013/43-E/C.19/2013/25)

The President said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the majority of delegations wished to defer consideration of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in order to allow more time for its review.

It was so decided.

The President said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the document entitled "Results of the fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women"

(E/2013/75); the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-first session (E/2013/26); the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (E/2013/3-A/68/61); the report of the Board of Trustees on major activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/2013/80); the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012 (E/INCB/2012/1); the report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on its fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth sessions (A/68/55); the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions (E/2013/22); and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/2013/82).

It was so decided.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*continued*) (E/2013/L.24)

The President said that the draft resolution entitled "Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations" had been introduced at an earlier meeting by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He invited the Council to proceed to a roll-call vote on the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by 24 votes to 0, with 19 abstentions.

Ms. Robl (United States of America) said that her Government agreed in principle that United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies could provide useful support to territories that were not members of the United Nations, provided that the arrangement was permissible under the law of the administering power. The terms of the draft resolution infringed on the constitutional arrangements of the United States, and her delegation had therefore abstained from voting.

Mr. Favero (Brazil) said that his delegation had been unable to be present for the roll-call vote and that it wished to associate itself with the vote in favour of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.